Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (cancelled).

6. (Original) An isolated *dwf7* polynucleotide that imparts at least one *dwf7* mutant phenotype when expressed in a plant, said polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of (a) a polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence depicted at positions 1506 to 2720, inclusive, of Figures 10A-10F; (b) a polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence having at least 70% identity to the nucleotide sequence of (b); (c) a fragment of (a) or (b) comprising at least 15 contiguous nucleotides; and (d) complements of (a), (b), (c) or (d).

7. (Original) The isolated *dwf7* polynucleotide of claim 6, wherein said polynucleotide consists of the nucleotide sequence depicted at positions 1506 to 2720, inclusive, of Figures 10A-10F or the complement thereof.

8. (cancelled)

9. (Original) A recombinant vector comprising:

(a) the isolated *dwf7* polynucleotide of claim 6; and

(b) control elements that are operably linked to said polynucleotide whereby a coding sequence within said polynucleotide can be transcribed and translated in a host cell, and at least one of said control elements is heterologous to said coding sequence.

10. (cancelled)

11. (Original) A host cell transformed with the recombinant vector of claim 9.

12. (cancelled)

13. (Original) A method of producing a *DWF7* polypeptide comprising:

(a) providing a population of host cells according to claim 11; and

(b) culturing said population of cells under conditions whereby the DWF7 polypeptide encoded by the coding sequence present in said recombinant vector is expressed.

14. (cancelled)

15. (Original) A transgenic plant comprising the polynucleotide of claim 6.

16. (cancelled)

17. (Original) A method of producing a transgenic plant comprising the steps of:

(a) introducing the polynucleotide of-claim 6 into a plant cell to produce a transformed plant cell; and

(b) producing a transgenic plant from the transformed plant cell.

18. (cancelled)

19. (Original) A method for altering the sterol composition of a plant relative to the wild-type plant comprising:

(a) introducing the polynucleotide of claim 6 into a plant cell to produce a transformed plant cell; and

(b) producing a transgenic plant from the transformed plant cell, said transgenic plant having an altered sterol composition relative to the wild-type plant.

20. (cancelled)

21. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the transgenic plant has less cholesterol relative to the wild-type plant.

22. (cancelled)

23. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the transgenic plant has increased sterol production relative to the wild-type plant.

Claims 24-35. (cancelled)